Trivandrum in connection with His Highness's Birthday and the *Utsavom* in the Sri Padmanabhaswami temple, and for a short trip to Madras during the Christmas week in 1930, His Highness has been occupied with his studies in Bangalore, in the course of which he has also visitsd several mofussil stations in the Mysore State. In the second week of February last, His Highness proceeded to Waltair in the Vizagapatam District to acquaint himself with the details of the British Indian District organisation and work. Captain Harvey reports that His Highness continued to make very satisfactory progress in his studies and that mental progress and expansion of personality have been marked and rapid. The establishment of a separate household has resulted in much greater self-reliance, initiative and power of decision. Opportunities for studying the laws and institutions of a progressive State have greatly broadened His Highness's experience and enlarged His Highness's sympathies and interests. The thanks of the Government and the people of Travancore are due to the Governments of Mysore and Madras for their help and co-operation in the administrative training of His Highness the Maha Raja.

The Indian Round Table Conference.

3. One outstanding event of profound political importance since we met last was the summoning by His Majesty the King Emperor of the Round Table Conference in London to explore the possibilities of a satisfactory settlement of the great Indian constitutional problem. The inauguration of any substantial measure of constitutional reforms in British India recognising the principle of the responsibility of the executive to the legislature must necessarily affect the future relations of Indian States with the Government of India. And accordingly, His Majesty's Government had invited representatives from Indian States to participate in the deliberations of the Conference. Sir Mirza Ismail, the Dewan of Mysore, was the delegate for the South Indian States; and Dewan Bahadur T. Raghaviah Esq., President of the Council of Administration, Pudukotta, was selected as Advisor to Sir Mirza Ismail on behalf of the Madras States. Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai, who was at the time on special duty with me in connection with the Round Table Conference matters, was deputed as Secretary to Mr. Raghaviah and Mr. N. Krishnamurti, Income Tax Inspector, was appointed as Personal Assistant to Mr. Raghaviah.

The immediate result of the deliberations in London was the acceptance of federation as the basis of the future Indian polity. It was generally agreed that the Central Government should be a federation of All-India embracing both the Indian States and British India in a bicameral legislature. The precise form and structure of the new Federal Government will be determined after further discussion with the representatives of Indian States and British India. The Federal Government will have authority only in such matters concerning the States as will be ceded to it by their Rulers in agreements made by them on entering into the Federation. The Federal Structure Sub-Committee

the Conference have prepared a provisional list of subjects to be committed to federal jurisdiction. Important States like Travancore now exercise sovereign rights of legislation, taxation and administration in regard to several of the subjects proposed to be federalised ; and in order to secure the vested rights or special interests that such States might possess in relation to these matters, the Sub-Committee have provided that suitable adjustments and reservations may be made. The Committee observe that "the precise delimitation of the functions of the Federal and State Governments respectively, in these spheres will be a matter for settlement in respect of each such subject by negotiation ". And consequently, the range of subjects to be brought within the purview of the Federal Government and the extent of federal jurisdiction with regard to them will be definitely settled only after further discussion. " The connection of the States with the Federation will", in the words of the Premier, " remain subject to the basic principle that, in regard to all matters not ceded by them to the Federation, their relations will be with the Crown acting through the agency of the Viceroy".

In any scheme of federation, Travancore, with a population of about four and a half millions and a revenue of two and a half crores of rupees will naturally play an important part. This State is next only to Hyderabad and Mysore in point of population and takes the fourth rank among the Indian States in point of revenue. Besides, as one of the most important maritime States she has got problems of her own in regard to which special adjustments and reservations may have to be made.

Government are watching with the closest interest the further course of events relating to the work of the Round Table Conference and I may assure you that they will put forth their best endeavours to secure for Travancore full recognition of her just and legitimate claims to an honourable place in the Federal India of the future.

Introductory.

4. You have as usual been supplied already with copies of the Administration Report, the Statistical Volume and the Report of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, for the year 1105. Copies have also been distributed of the Statement of Action taken on the representations made by members at the five previous sessions of the Assembly. You will see from that statement that, since the close of the last session, the subjects the representations relating to which were not finally disposed of by my replies then given, have engaged the careful attention of Government, and that sustained action is being taken on those still left undisposed of.

I shall now proceed to a brief narration of the more salient features in the administration of the State during 1105 and indicate the more important administrative measures that are in contemplation.